



## SOUTHEAST FINAL REPORT



**First Steps Facilitator: *Sarah Parker, Representing 26 counties***

**Regional LICC status:**

Reporting Date: January 9, 2004

Active LICCs: 6 active LICCs representing 26 counties

Inactive LICCs: None

LICCs in development: 2 LICCS (Ripley/Butler & Cape) will hold first meeting January 12th. 3

LICCS (Dunklin/Stoddard, Pemiscot/New Madrid & Howell/Oregon are in the very early stages of development (meeting not ready to be scheduled until February or March).

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

LICC Development:

- The Southeast Region has 6 active Local Interagency Coordinating Councils that are formally organized, meeting on a regular basis and has developed specific outcomes and goals that are specific to the needs of their communities.
- There are currently two LICCs ready to hold their first meeting and three additional LICCs are in the early development stage.

Communication:

An integral function of the FSF was to serve as the liaison between the Lead Agency and the SICC, relating local issues and concerns as well as technical assistance needs. Daily activities included receiving phone calls and e-mails for support guidance and technical assistance for First Steps Families, SPOES, Providers and LICCs. First Steps updates were forwarded to LICCs as news/changes occurred (on a monthly basis). Local issues and concerns regarding LICC technical assistance needs have been related to both DESE and the SICC.

Public Awareness/Child Find:

- 4 LICCS have developed flyers that are being distributed in the community by the members and delivered to physician offices & health departments along with brochures. This has been accomplished with volunteer work and personal money.
- Made personal visits to agencies to leave flyers, brochures and information packets.
- Information seminars have been held for Parents as Teacher, Local Schools, Head Start, providers, The Division of Family Services and C2000 to educate them on the First Steps program (eligibility criteria, referral information, what to expect, varied needs, etc...).
- Informational packets have been given to community agencies (daycare, WIC, pregnancy assistance, United Way, etc...) providing with basic referral and eligibility information and forms.

Provider Recruitment:

- Recruitment seminars were scheduled across the Southeast.
- Assisted by providing information, forms and assistance with the enrollment process.
- One-on-one meetings with Service Coordinators and providers to offer information and assistance.

- Developed provider databases for follow-up.
- Recruitment information sent to area colleges and universities.
- Several mailings and phone calls for provider recruitment.

Continued Issues & Concerns:

- Provider Recruitment
- Public Awareness
- Technical Assistance, Support & Guidance
- Communication
- Training
- Support & Funding for LICC Activities

The above are very important issues to those involved with First Steps and will need to be further addressed in the current First Steps system.

I would like to thank the First Steps LICCs, SPOEs, Families and Providers in the Southeast Region for the opportunity to serve with you. The continued support and hard work you have been doing to promote the First Steps program has been amazing. My hope is that you will continue your hard work and support of First Steps. Your dedication is much appreciated by the families you serve.

I would also like to thank the SICC for your support and guidance of the First Steps system. Your effort to keep the local voices heard and your knowledge of the system is of great benefit to all.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Parker